

# REPORTS

OF THE

## SELECTMEN

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF BRISTOL, N. H.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

**MARCH 3, 1857.**

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CONCORD:

JONES & COGSWELL PRINTERS,  
1857.



# REPORT.

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The Selectmen credit the Town for the year ending March 3d, 1857, as follows :

1856.	By list of taxes assessed in April, 1856,...	\$2.645	44
	School house tax in Dist. No. 10,.....	25	06
	Literary Fund for 1856, .....	80	36
	Cash of collector in 1855, .....	101	00
May 20.	Received on county pauper claim,.....	12	00
Nov. 22.	Received on D. E. Bartlett, 's note, .....	6	10
	Received of Blodgett estate,.....	32	26
	Received on note of Milo and S. S. Fellows,.	40	00
	Received on Benjamin Cass's note,.....	24	00
July 17.	Received of O. F. Fowler, agent for Lowell Company,.....	50	00
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		\$3.016	22

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## DISBURSEMENTS BY THE SELECTMEN.

### *Outstanding Orders, Bills and Claims.*

June 1855-6.	Paid Ruth Kidder for support of Mrs. Allen,.....	\$60	00
	Paid Josiah Brown for support of Wm. San- born, .....	28	28
"	Ira S. Chase, for medical aid,.....	15	00
"	O. F. Morse, damage for crossing land,	6	00
"	J. D. Prescott, horse hire, 1854, 5, & 6,	12	25
"	John M. R. Emmons' note,.....	29	77

June 2.	Paid D. S. Mason, labor and services, . . . . .	\$51 47
	“ Merrill Simonds for support of Lydia Blodgett, and Polly Lowell, . . . . .	58 00
	“ Samuel Page, for making coffins for Mrs. Blodgett and Mrs. Allen, . . . . .	7 50
Aug. 27.	“ F. Bartlett, for two lots in Cemetery, . . . . .	20 00
	“ Samuel Berry, for tolling bell, . . . . .	8 75
	“ Reuben Emmons, for stone, . . . . .	2 20
		<hr/>
		\$299 22
1856.	Paid State tax, . . . . .	\$189 70
“	“ County tax, . . . . .	301 75
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		\$491 45

*Abatement of Taxes.*

1849 and '50.	J. B. Smith, . . . . .	\$5 36
1855.	John Ayer, . . . . .	1 84
	O. P. Gurdy, . . . . .	1 84
	T. P. Nutting, . . . . .	1 84
	Lyford Hunt, . . . . .	1 84
	Rufus Prescott, . . . . .	1 84
	S. C. Brown, . . . . .	2 50
1856.	Michael Bowen, . . . . .	2 19
“	Frank Nailey, . . . . .	2 19
“	Joseph Smith, . . . . .	2 19
“	Lewis Walett, . . . . .	2 19
“	Enos Nouri, . . . . .	2 19
“	Cummil Nouri, . . . . .	1 19
“	James Gilman, . . . . .	2 19
“	David Brown, . . . . .	2 19
“	George Webster, . . . . .	2 10
“	Martin Alden, . . . . .	2 10
“	George Ingalls, . . . . .	2 10
“	Richard Greenwood, . . . . .	2 10
“	William L. Bailey, . . . . .	2 10
“	James Musgrove, . . . . .	2 10
“	O. F. Fowler, Agent Lowell Company, . . . . .	7 00
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		\$53 18

*School House Money.*

1856.	Paid G. W. Dow, District No. 10, . . . . .	\$25 06
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*School Money.*

District No. 1.	Paid Robert Smith,.....	\$24 57
" " 2.	" George Tenney,.....	169 78
" " 3.	" Joseph Fogg,.....	43 20
" " 4.	" Hiram Heath,.....	35 74
" " 5.	" A. G. Fuller,.....	41 94
" " 6.	" Amos Damon,.....	47 24
" " 7.	" John F. Cass,.....	16 71
" " 8.	" Moses Cheney,.....	47 20
" " 9.	" John Hastings,.....	55 73
" " 10.	" J. F. Rollins,.....	157 81
" " 11.	" D. B. Bartlett, .....	68 07
	Caleb Whittemore's portion, ...	2 78
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		\$710 77

*Highways and Bridges.*

1856.

June 28.	Paid Moses Cheney for breaking roads,...	\$22 64
	Paid D. S. Mason, for plank, .....	4 80
	" John Hastings, labor, .....	10 90
	" P. S. Drake,.....	6 29
	" J. R. Emmons, .....	5 15
	" Aaron Sleeper, .....	3 00
	" O. S. Hall, .....	4 75
	" Milo Fellows, breaking roads,.....	4 75
	" J. M. Follansbee, for labor, .....	4 93
	" Wilson Foster,.....	3 00
	" Robert Smith, labor and lumber,.....	9 01
	" S. S. Fellows, for labor, .....	17 20
	" Timothy Chandler, labor, .....	15 50
	" John S. Gilman, labor, .....	2 00
	" Arial George, for lumber,.....	40 03
	" David Fowler, labor,.....	4 50
	" Blake Fowler, for plank,.....	11 32
Feb. 28.	J. H. Minard, breaking roads,.....	15 10
	Paid J. S. Nelson, " " .....	18 00
	" Levi Bartlett, " " .....	2 00
	" J. M. Follansbee, " " .....	25 00
	" Frederick Kidder, " .....	9 50
	" Rufus Eaton, for stone,.....	1 25
March 3.	N. T. Chase, breaking roads, .....	2 00
	Paid S. T. W. Sleeper, breaking roads,.....	1 70
	" S. S. Fellows, for plank,.....	4 93

Paid Expense of building Fowler River Bridge...	\$144	57
March 3. James T. Sanborn, for labor,.....	14	62
Paid S. S. Brown, labor and lumber,.....	14	24

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\$423 68

*Support of the Poor.*

May 1. Paid N. H. Asylum support of Lydia Glidden,	\$108	00
“ Abel Ford, for support of G. B. Ladd,..	28	13
“ White & Prescott, shoes for the poor,...	5	25
“ Joseph Fogg, support of Elijah Truell,..	53	48
“ Dr. H. B. Fowler, medical aid, .....	15	00
“ Ebenezer Darling, support of Mrs. Blod-		
gett,.....	103	00
“ E. W. Cheney, digging grave for Mrs.		
Allen,.....	1	25
“ for support of David Eaton, .....	73	04
“ J. T. & J. W. Sanborn, for two coats for		
William Sanborn and Elijah Truell,..	16	50
“ Ruth Kidder, for support of Mrs. Allen,	94	00
“ T. R. Emmons, support of Polly Lowell,	48	00
“ for support of Hutchinson family,.....	9	00

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\$554 65

*Current Expenses.*

Sept. 15, 1856. Paid J. A. Haynes, for fence on Town		
House lot, .....	\$4	00
Paid Geo. Tenney for fuel, lights, and fitting up		
Town house for Teachers' Institute, .....	2	00
“ County School Commissioners, .....	16	30
“ Jonathan Corliss, for horse damaged,.....	6	00
“ Printing Reports and blank books,.....	18	00
“ Ministerial money, to the three societies, ....	6	00
“ D. E. Everett, for enrolling soldiers, .....	1	00
“ J. T. Sanborn, for enrolling soldiers, .....	3	00
March 3, 1857. Paid Warren White, excess in value,	24	26

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\$80 56

*Town Officers' Bills.*

Paid Levi Lock, Treasurer,.....	\$10	00
“ Joseph Garland and Geo. Tenney, Sup. S. Com.,	30	00
“ D. E. Everett, services as Town Clerk,.....	16	50

March 3, 1857.	J. T. Sanborn,	}	Selectmen's	....\$44 78
"	S. S. Brown,		services.	.... 34 00
"	T. R. Emmons,			.... 47 17
"	John W. Sanborn, services as collector of taxes,.....			
				<hr/> \$172 45

### RECAPITULATION.

1856.

Whole amount received,.....	\$3.016 22
Paid outstanding orders,.....	\$299 22
State and County tax,.....	491 45
Abatem't of taxes, 1849, 50, 54, 5, 6,	53 18
School house money,.....	25 06
Support of schools,.....	710 77
Highways and bridges,.....	423 68
Support of poor,.....	554 65
Current expenses,.....	80 56
Town officers,.....	172 45
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	\$2.811 02
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Balance due the Treasurer,	\$205 20

### ESTIMATED DEBTS AGAINST THE TOWN, MARCH 3d, 1857.

Mrs. P. W. Eaton, two notes,.....	\$700 72
F. Bartlett, note,.....	111 30
Mrs. Mary C. Mudgett, .....	145 60
Mrs. Rebecca Taylor, .....	111 85
Calvin Swett,.....	39 33
J. M. R. Emmons, note,.....	231 09
Outstanding orders,.....	567 04
Joseph Moor, support of W. Sanborn,	48 00
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	\$1.954 93

*Schedule of Notes and Claims due the Town March 3d, 1857.*

Reuben Lowell, note June 22d, 1843, ...	
principal, \$150 00 ; interest, \$182 72,.	\$332 72
Benjamin Cass, note, Feb. 26, 1853,....	
principal, \$2 00 ; interest, \$5 37,....	7 37
Milo and S. S. Fellows, note, March 8th, ..	
1855, principal, \$38 42 ; interest, \$1 08	39 50
D. L. & Cyrus Bennett, note, Nov. 7, 1855,	
principal, \$14 55 ; interest, \$1 18,...	15 63
D. B. Bartlett, note, Aug. 2d, 1853 ;....	
principal, \$100 00 ; interest, \$2 90 ;..	102 90
Abbott Lovejoy, note, March 3d, 1857,..	
principal, \$71 61 ;.....	71 61
March 3d, 1857. Amount due from John	
W. Sanborn, Collector, .....	714 86
Total,	<hr/> \$1.284 59
Balance against the town,	<hr/> \$670 34

Which is respectfully submitted,

JAMES T. SANBORN,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
SILAS S. BROWN,	
THOMAS R. EMMONS,	

*of*  
*Bristol.*

March, 1857.



**R E P O R T**  
**OF THE**  
**SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR**  
**1856-7.**



## SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

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This report is necessarily but partial, and limited to this date, from the fact that the Committee is about to leave the State, and resign his commission whilst six of the schools are in successful operation. The Committee, up to this date, has made thirty eight visits to the schools in town, besides several shorter calls. These visits have been made disproportionally amongst the schools, according as the condition and circumstances of the schools seemed to require at the time. With but one or two exceptions, the Committee is happy to report most manifest and decided progress in the improvement, good order, and general interests of the schools.

The example of District No. 10, in enclosing their school-house with a neat fence, ornamenting the yard with shade trees ; and fitting up the house, externally and internally in such a manner as to make it so inviting and comfortable, is worthy of commendation. Would that the other districts would imitate their example. In this school-house alone is found a sufficient supply of black-boards to meet all the wants of the schools. The committee would earnestly recommend to all the other districts an improvement in this respect. This district has manifested much wisdom in their choice of an experienced teacher, and in securing her services, for both the Summer and Winter term. The result is, good order in the school, very commendable interest on the part of the scholars in their studies, and decided improvement generally in the school. It is to be regretted that there should be found one exception to these remarks in the case of one of the larger girls who, after occasioning her teacher much trouble, by neglecting her studies, failing to get her lessons, and other manifest improprieties, has at length left the school.

In Districts, No. 8, and No. 9, similar instances of refusal to comply with the reasonable requirements of their teachers have occurred on the part of the larger scholars, which have resulted in their leaving the school. It is certainly a matter of regret that there should be found in any of our schools young men, that will contend with their teacher for the indulgence in the school-room of the foolish, wasteful, and filthy habit of chewing *tobacco*, accompanied by the use of cards and profane language clandestinely indulged, in the absence of the teacher between schools, and then will leave the school because corrected for it and forbidden its further indulgence. Such conduct and habits cannot be allowed or tolerated in our schools. And the Com-

mittee can but congratulate the parents in District No. 9, that they have secured a teacher this term, who in this and all other respects has done and still is endeavoring to do her duty faithfully. It is equally to be regretted, that parents should take their children out of school when they have been corrected for manifest improprieties and made to obey their teacher, as has been the case in one instance in district No. 8, this Winter, and in another instance in No. 2, last Summer. Such a course by parents tends to encourage a spirit of stubborn disobedience in their own children to wholesome authority, and greatly interrupts the good order and usefulness of our schools.

It is the opinion of the Committee that no school in town has undergone so great a change for the better, both as it respects the habits of study, the general improvement and interest of the scholars in their studies, as in District No. 11. This is to be attributed in part to circumstances, but *mostly* to the superior tact and sternness of the teacher for discipline, and her uncompromising perseverance and fidelity in discharge of her duties. For no school in the town was in so bad condition at its commencement last Summer in these respects, and no visit or examination of a school in this town has been so satisfactory as was the closing visit and examination of this school.

Greatly in contrast with this school in these respects was the general appearance of the school in District No. 2, at the last visit of the Committee. So much disorder, noise and whispering prevailed that the Committee *could* not hear the questions of the teacher, or the answers of the scholars, in most of their recitations. Besides the Committee was compelled, either to shut his eyes, or see impudent looks and countenances, writing and passing of billets and little scraps of paper between some of the larger boys and other glaring improprieties, when they ought to have been studying their lessons; very imperfect recitations were the consequent results. The teacher too often answered for the scholar or aided in giving the answer. When recess came nearly half of the scholars left the school, some with and others without the permission of the teacher. The Committee would earnestly recommend to some of the parents in that district to correct the moral habits of their children. Insolent, vulgar, and profane language and conduct, are too common amongst them. The ears and eyes of the Committee have been too often pained by unmistakable evidence of this fact. The Committee would recommend to some of the parents in that district to overcome and lay aside some of their long and deep seated prejudices, and see to it that their children be prompt and punctual at school, and not be absent in school hours, skating, playing, or otherwise squandering their time. The usefulness of their Summer school was greatly diminished and curtailed by influences of this nature, and the same is still true of the Winter School. The efforts made and course pursued by the teacher of the Summer School furnished undeniable evidence of her skill, fidelity and ability to excel as a teacher, and the same is true of the teacher of the Winter School, as the well known experience of both of them prove. But it is too

obvious, that circumstances and home influences, have greatly counteracted their efforts, and render it impossible for them or for any female teacher to govern, and promote the improvement of that school as it ought to be. The Committee would recommend to that district to finish off the upper story of their school-house, and have two departments in their school, placing the more advanced scholars by themselves, and, till that is done, that they employ a faithful and experienced male teacher at least for their Winter term.

In District No. 5 and 7 the committee witnessed the best performances and greatest improvement in reading that occurred in any of the schools. These were the smallest schools in town, and consequently short. But the teachers acquitted themselves faithfully. The school in District No. 4 was under the faithful teaching of Miss P. W. Pike during the Autumn, and exhibited similar interest, good order and improvement, to what is visible under her teaching in District No. 10. It is a matter of joy and gladness, that the old hovel of a school-room in this district is about to be exchanged for a new, and as we would hope, a more seemly and suitable building for school purposes. The school in District No. 1, though very small in the number of scholars in the District, was greatly enlarged by scholars from adjoining Districts. The school was thus prolonged, and the Districts mutually benefited. Good order prevailed in the school, and the teacher exhibited much skill and thoroughness in teaching.

District No. 3. The teacher of the Summer School closed, obtained her pay, and left her register in the district, without filling it out as the law requires and without notifying the committee of the close of the school. Consequently there was no examination and the report of the school must be imperfect. Repeated instances have occurred in which teachers have closed their schools and obtained their pay before delivering up their registers to the Superintending Committee. It is earnestly recommended to all Prudential Committees, to withhold pay from their teachers, till they have filled out their registers and delivered them up to the Superintending Committee. It will be seen by glancing at the statistics of the Schools, that they all have been, or are under the instruction of female teachers. The results of this course in the several districts, will enable the citizens to judge of the wisdom of this policy. In closing this my report, I would earnestly urge the parents to take more interest in the schools, and visit them an hundred fold more.

JOSEPH GARLAND,  
*Superintending School Committee of Bristol.*

In addition to the preceeding report, a few observations, suggested by the condition of the schools, in Districts Nos. 2, 8, 9, and 10, which had not closed their winter terms at the time it was made, with such other matters as seem pertinent, are also submitted.

DIST. No. 2. The examination at the close was well attended by the members of the district, and was generally quite satisfactory. The classes appeared well, and there were evidences of a good degree of proficiency in most of the studies. Some of them appeared better than others. And among the best were some of the classes in Arithmetic, the class in Grammar, and classes in History, and Watts on the mind. In reading and spelling too, there were instances of much proficiency. There were besides, exercises in declamation by the boys, and in composition by the girls, which would compare favorably with similar exercises in higher schools. This was the largest school in town, having sixty-one different scholars.

The teacher had evidently labored diligently and with much solicitude, and employed her large experience and skillful tact for their best interests, and approved herself as competent for her task. The scholars generally manifested the usual degree of interest, and with a few exceptions, well requitted themselves. In respect to two or three, however, who had evidently attended the school for other purposes than study, it will be sufficient here, perhaps, to say that they succeeded in making themselves more notorious for bad conduct and ill manners, than for studious habits, or even the ordinary marks of good breeding.

DIST. No. 8. At the closing examination there were present only eleven scholars, one family of six children having been taken out of the school by their parents, during the last four or five years, and in fact, since the new school-house was built. The school in this district has suffered from a division in the district. The best efforts of the teacher are paralyzed by a deeply seated, and as it seems, an abiding enmity. Indeed, it seems so firmly settled, and adhered to, that whatever is most acceptable to the one side, is quite certain to be most objectionable to the other; this state of things quite annoys the teacher, and to a very great extent, diminishes the advantages otherwise accruing to the school. The classes generally appeared very well. Those in Colburn's and Adams' Arithmetic, and in Grammar, perhaps, excelled. There were a few good readers, but several of those who read in the 4th, should more properly have been in the 2nd and 3d Readers.

There was too much communication; and while there was much to commend, their recitations were better than their manners. The teacher had evidently been much embarrassed by the existing state of things, and, while she might have done enough under other circumstances, and have presented the school improved in several respects, it was evident she was not responsible for all the deficiency.

DIST. No. 9. This school at its close presented an appearance better than at some terms heretofore. In the recitations, the answers were generally very promptly and correctly given. There was only

one scholar in Geography, and the classes in Grammar and Arithmetic recited better than some of the others. Some of the scholars excelled in reading. There was an apparent readiness on the part of the scholars to conform to the wishes of the teacher, and upon the whole, the school seemed in a very good degree to have given general satisfaction.

DISTRICT No. 10. A visit to this school a short time before its close gave good assurance of its successful operation, and that it would terminate favorably.

The reputation of the teacher, and also of the school, as well as the condition of the district, would indicate it quite obviously. And had not an unforeseen circumstance prevented, the closing examination would, doubtless, have confirmed the good opinion previously entertained.

There was about the usual appropriation made for the support of the schools the past year.

The amount raised by taxation was \$549.77. The sum arising from other sources, was \$168.71. In all \$711.06. This sum divided among the several districts varied to each scholar from \$1.66 to \$5.90. And divided among the whole number of scholars, the sum appropriated to each was \$1.81.

The schools have generally been quite successful, both in the selection of teachers, and the uniform disposition on the part of the scholars to conform to reasonable and judicious regulations, as well as in the coöperation, sympathy, and encouragement of the citizens. And there has probably been about the usual equivalent received from the amount appropriated for their support.

There has been a larger number of open violations of the rules of school by scholars, than has occurred in any other of the last four years, and in several instances the scholar has preferred to leave the school. It would doubtless have been better for the schools in other instances, had it been so, if not willingly, by compulsion. One or two vicious, or idle ones occasion much evil. And, doubtless the good or ill success of the teacher, is much affected by it. It may change the character and reputation of the school.

The attention of our people has often, heretofore, been called to the want of some further appropriation for the schools. Every district should be provided with a dictionary, library, globe, a set of outline, or other maps, and some further apparatus for illustration. It is not necessary that it should all be done in one year, but it should be at some time, and no matter how soon. It would be sufficient, perhaps, to begin with raising \$10, at the annual meetings in the several districts, this spring, which would purchase the dictionary and maps. To purchase all or any part of these would be a judicious investment. Even the purchase of the dictionary and a good map of the State would make a good beginning, and it would require only four or five dollars,—a very small sum to each tax payer. Up to this time, there is nothing of the kind in any one of the districts, except a set of

outline maps in Dist. No. 10, and those were procured by voluntary contribution, at the suggestion of the teacher, some two years since.

A table is appended to this report, from which will be seen the whole number of scholars, the length of the schools, and the amount of money assigned, with some other items relating to several districts.

GEORGE TENNEY,

*Superintending Committee.*

## STATISTICS OF SCHOOLS.

### TEACHERS.

	PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.	SUMMER TERM.	WINTER TERM.
1	Robert Smith,	Mary E. George,	
2	George Tenney,	Mary A. Woolson,	Susan D. Haseltine.
3	Joseph Fogg,	Harriet A. Rogers,	A. Ann Huckins.
4	Hiram Heath,	Olive J. Cheney,	Priscilla W. Pike.
5	George Fuller,	Sarah C. Moor,	Sarah C. Moor.
6	Amos Damon,	Olive J. Cheney,	Olive J. Cheney.
7	David M. Merrill,	Julia A. Spiller,	
8	S. D. Buswell, }		C. A. Beane.
9	Moses Cheney, }	Oriette Whidden,	Ellen A. Sibley.
10	Joseph F. Rollins,	Priscilla W. Pike,	Priscilla W. Pike.
11	Daniel B. Bartlett,	Emma H. Chase,	Emma H. Chase.

No. of Districts.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Whole No. of Scholars.	8	74	26	4	10	38	10	23	9	22	17
No. attending in Summer.	5	23	17	2	10	30	10	21	31	41	25
No. attending in Winter.	6	22	17	3	5	22	23	21	39	22	17
Length of Summer School in weeks.	9	12	4	5	8	6	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	13	8	8
Length of Winter School in weeks.	—	12	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	6	7	—	10	15	7	—
Wages of Female teachers per month.	—	25.00	16.00	13.50	12.00	13.83	8.00	17.75	17.00	19.50	15.50
No. visits of Superin'g Com.	2	8	—	3	2	3	3	3	1	5	9
No. visits of Prudential Com.	—	5	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	1
No. visits of citizens.	10	72	4	7	8	7	12	12	102	25	—
Amount appropriated to each Scholar.	24	57	15	90	169	78	2	29	1	66	4
Amount appropriated to each District.	—	43	20	3	67	1	4	19	47	24	1
	—	16	71	1	67	7	12	2	14	55	73
	—	47	20	2	14	16	71	1	67	55	73
	—	157	81	3	59	102	25	—	—	—	—
	—	68	07	2	72	25	—	—	—	—	—